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NEWS RELEASE



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Governor Invites All to Inaugural Fur & Ice Fashion Show
Fur fashion show builds on World Ice Carving Championship March 13

(Juneau) – Seeking to share the crystalline beauty of winter in Interior Alaska with others, Governor Frank H. Murkowski today issued an open invitation to the inaugural Alaska "Fur & Ice" event in Fairbanks on March 13 on the grounds of the World Ice Art Championships.

By adding a fashion show displaying the works of Alaska's best furriers to the stunning landscape of world-class ice carvings, the governor hopes to create an event that will expand Fairbanks' role as an international winter tourism destination.

"For the first time, elegant fur fashions will be presented against the perfect Alaska backdrop - the Ice Park in Fairbanks," said Murkowski. "I can't think of a more appropriate combination than Alaska furs and ice carvings."

The fur fashion show will be held Sunday, March 13, 2005 at 3 p.m. Former and present Alaska pageant winners will model three dozen of the latest fur fashions on a runway of crystal-clear ice. Well-known Alaska radio personality Jack Frost will emcee the show, and Alaska furriers will be on hand to answer questions about their craft and products.

Every winter, premiere ice sculptors from around the world gather in Fairbanks to take advantage of the Interior Alaska's pristine ice. The World Ice Art Championships consist of three ice sculpting competitions that span the 11-day period from March 2-12. All pieces are finished and illuminated on March 13. The Ice Park is to remain open until March 27.

In 2004, more than 48,000 visitors from 48 states and 28 countries came through the gates of the Ice Park, home of the World Ice Art Championships. In addition to the sculpture competitions, the park also features the Flint Hills Kids' Park, with interactive ice sculpture slides and mazes. In all there will be more than 100 larger-than life sculptures at the park.

"Nancy and I are delighted to start a new Fairbanks tradition in the Golden Heart of Alaska," the governor said. "We look forward to welcoming Alaskans and international guests to this first-ever fur and ice event."

For more information about the Alaska Fur & Ice event, please contact Melissa Stepovich in the Office of the Governor in Fairbanks, (907) 451-2920, or Ice Alaska, (907) 451-8250.

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